



Farm Center Available During Extended Dry Period

Release Date: July 5, 2012

Contact: Ashley Huibregtse, 608-224-5002

Jim Dick, Communications Director, 608-224-5020

MADISON – While the average height of corn statewide was well over knee-high by the fourth of July, the hot and dry season is causing difficulties and worry for some of Wisconsin’s farmers. The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) reminds farmers that the Wisconsin Farm Center is available to offer assistance.

“Our staff is working to pull together as much information as possible about existing services and available contacts for referrals,” said Kathy Schmitt, DATCP’s Farm and Rural Services Bureau Director. “If you are having difficulty sourcing feed or need help with financial planning to accommodate extra costs, our team is available to help.”

Farmers can contact the Wisconsin Farm Center toll-free at 1-800-942-2474 or by email at farmcenter@wisconsin.gov. Office hours are weekdays, 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The Wisconsin Farm Center provides one easy phone number to call. By calling the toll-free number or emailing, DATCP can reach out to collaborating partners to get the best help available.

“As this extended dry period continues, we know there are additional concerns for farmer’s crops and livestock,” added Schmitt. “When you call the Wisconsin Farm Center, you will get an empathetic ear who listens and understands farming and can help you to form a game plan for your individual situation.”

Marty Grosse, an Agricultural Program Specialist, recently joined the Wisconsin Farm Center team. Other members include: Schmitt, Dave Hansen, Frank Friar, Roger Kasper, John Dupuis, Dr. John Roberts and Dr. John Marks.

The Wisconsin Farm Center offers valuable resources for farmers and their families year-round. The staff and network of volunteers provide: financial analysis, farm mediation, information and referrals to community resources, beginning and minority farmer assistance, rural electric power services and transition planning.

For a continuing update on the situation, check the Wisconsin Crop Progress Report each week at http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Wisconsin/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition.

###